JAN A CEL STATE REPRESENTATIVE

26TH DISTRICT 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dear friends,

After a 60-day regular session and 30 days in a special session, the Legislature finally adjourned April 13. Both legislative sessions were dominated by the state operating budget, which faced a \$2.8 billion shortfall. Two different approaches emerged to solve this problem.

The first proposal focused on raising taxes, relying on federal dollars and transferring state funds dedicated to other purposes. The second solution, which I supported, sought to provide fiscal responsibility by restructuring state government, reforming the budget process and generating long-term revenue by helping employers create jobs in the private sector. Unfortunately, the first approach was chosen.

I'm very concerned that tax increases will further damage our local business climate, hurt families and prolong the economic recession. I also felt the budget should have been prioritized to focus on education, public safety, and protection of the most vulnerable.

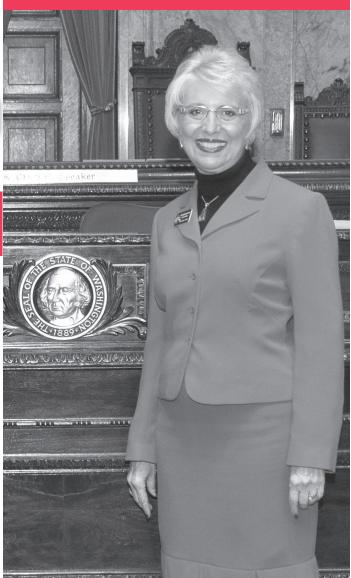
It's unfortunate that our ideas to stimulate the economy and make government live within its means were disregarded in favor of tax increases. Still, there are several successes for the 26th District, which are highlighted in this newsletter.

It's my great honor to serve you. Please contact my office any time you have questions, comments or suggestions about state government.

Sincerely,

Jan Unger

Rep. Jan Angel



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- Higher Education
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REP. JAN ANGEL • 26TH DISTRICT 2010 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BUDGET:How the \$2.8 billion shortfall was addressed

With more than 4,600 people unemployed in the 26th District, I felt the long-term budget solution is to provide reforms that grow private-sector jobs. Several of my colleagues and I proposed a "Made in Washington" jobs agenda that would reduce costs so that employers in the private sector could retain jobs and begin hiring again. We also proposed restructuring state government to focus spending on the priorities of education, public safety and protection of the state's most vulnerable citizens. Unfortunately, nearly all our solutions were rejected for a different budget approach.

After 90 days of a regular and special session, the majority party and governor opted for an unsustainable budget approach based on:

- \$794 million in new tax increases;
- \$661 million in spending reductions;
- \$663 million in one-time federal funds (not yet approved by Congress);
- \$328 million by raiding dedicated accounts;
- \$256 million by draining the rainy-day fund; and
- \$178 million in cost shifts to other accounts.

Spending was decreased by less than 1 percent from last year's budget. And because the solutions above rely on so much one-time money, we will most likely see another multi-billion dollar shortfall next session.

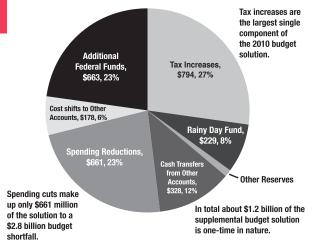
KILLING I-960: 'You're breaking the will of the people'

The headline above is what I said on the House floor Feb. 17 when the majority party brought Spending cuts make forth a bill to eliminate Initiative of the solution to a 960, also known as the Taxpayer shortfall. Protection Act. I-960 required a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to raise taxes. Voters have made it clear that raising taxes should be difficult and used only as a last resort. We fought for 10 hours on the House floor to preserve I-960. I voted against Senate Bill 6130 the measure that suspended it. Unfortunately, in the end, the will of the people was pushed aside.

Families and employers will be hit especially hard with the new and increased taxes approved by the majority party, amounting to nearly \$1.7 billion for the 2011-13 budget cycle. The tax increases will add to the prices associated with veterinarians, optometrists, dentists, graphic artists, attorneys, accountants, hair stylists, architects, direct sellers, real estate agents, banks and credit cards. People will also pay more for bottled water, soda, candy, gum, canned meats, beer and cigarettes.



2010 Supplemental Budget Solution General Fund-State Dollars in Millions



Respectful language bill becomes law



I'm very pleased to report that the governor signed a bill I authored that removes the term "mentally retarded" from state laws, replacing it with "intellectually disabled."

House Bill 2490 follows up on similar legislation I introduced that became law last year.

The "R" word (retarded) is a degrading term. This may seem like a small thing to some people, but really, it's very meaningful to those in our state who live with disabilities. They deserve our respect.

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Key Peninsula Youth Council members visit Olympia

I always enjoy greeting citizens from our district when they come to the state Capitol. It was wonderful to visit with the Key Peninsula Youth Council. These are bright young students who are working to improve the quality of life in the Key Peninsula area. I had the pleasure of meeting them and discussing legislative issues that may affect the 26th District.

NARROWS BRIDGE TOLLS:

No increases for now

I've been very concerned, like most people, about proposed toll increases on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. I talked this over with the state Transportation Commission and with the state treasurer, who had advocated increasing tolls to \$3.25 for Good-to-Go pass holders and \$5 at the booths. Keeping tolls affordable, especially in this difficult recession, is important. So I'm very pleased the Transportation Commission did not increase the bridge tolls. Likewise, however, I fear there may be even higher toll proposals in the future because the commission held the line on them this year.

I also remain skeptical about a new "photo toll" system that takes a picture of a license plate and then sends a bill to the driver. The billing and collection will add another layer of bureaucracy and, in short, revenue may be lost that the state may later try to collect through higher tolls. That's why I voted against Senate Bill 6499. The measure passed the Legislature and will implement the photo toll system.

I am pleased the supplemental transportation budget provides funding for the SR 16/Rosedale St. frontage road, as well as the corridor study for SR 302/Elgin Clifton Road to State Route 16.

REZONE NOTIFICATION BILL:

Passes House, gets stuck in the Senate

All too often property owners discover their land was rezoned for a different purpose and they weren't even notified. Zoning changes could affect how a property owner could use that land, as well as the value and taxes of the property. Although some local governments provide notification, it's not been a requirement.

One of the first bills of the session to get a hearing this year was House Bill 2408, a measure I sponsored that would require all local governments to provide rezone notification to the property owners who could be impacted. The measure passed the House unanimously, but stalled in a Senate committee. While I was disappointed with this outcome, I will continue fighting for property owners in the future.

FRANCES HADDON MORGAN CENTER:

No Closure

Protecting the state's most vulnerable is among the spending priorities I've supported in the budget. So I'm relieved to report the Frances Haddon Morgan Center, which was slated for closure under the governor's budget proposal, was funded and will remain open.

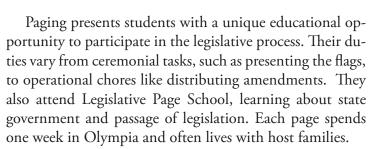
The center in Bremerton supports individuals with disabilities who live there. It also provides more than 100 jobs for our community.



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LOCAL YOUTH SERVE AS PAGES AT STATE CAPITOL

I'd like to thank Sarah Diambri of Gig Harbor and Tyler Alexander of Port Orchard who served as legislative pages and helped in the operations of the House of Representatives this year.



If you have a son or daughter who is at least 14, but has not yet turned 17, contact my office about getting them involved as a page. For more information, go online to: www. leg.wa.gov/House/Pages/HousePageProgram.aspx.



Sarah Diambri



Tyler Alexander

Visit my Web site

Sign up for my e-news updates, look up bills, watch videos, read my news releases and see where I stand on the issues that affect the 26th District. You can find all of this information and more on my Web site:

www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Angel



I'm here to serve you!

State government can seem distant and confusing. If you have a problem and don't know where to turn, perhaps I can help. Write, e-mail or call my office and my assistant, Debbie Austin, and I will do our best to assist you. I work for you throughout the year, not just when the Legislature is in session. If you feel new legislation is needed or adjustments should be made to existing legislation, I also want to hear from you. Here's my contact information:

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